

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel claims 1 – 16 and 34 - 51 without prejudice.

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17. (Original) A process of making a sorbent composition, said process comprising the steps of:

(a) admixing zinc oxide and a carrier to provide a support mix;

(b) particulating the support mix to provide a support particulate;

(c) incorporating said support particulate with a noble metal to provide a promoted particulate comprising an unreduced noble metal; and

(d) reducing said promoted particulate to provide a reduced sorbent composition comprising a reduced-valence noble metal.

18. (Original) A process in accordance with claim 17 wherein said reduced-valence noble metal has a valence which is less than the valence of said unreduced noble metal.

19. (Original) A process in accordance with claim 18 wherein said carrier comprises a silica compound and an alumina compound.

20. (Original) A process in accordance with claim 17 wherein said reduced-valence noble metal has a valence of less than 2.

21. (Original) A process in accordance with claim 20 wherein said promoted particulate is dried and calcined before reduction.

22. (Original) A process in accordance with claim 21 wherein said support particulate is dried and calcined before incorporation with said noble metal.

23. (Original) A process in accordance with claim 22 wherein said reduced-valence noble metal comprises platinum.

24. (Original) A process in accordance with claim 17 wherein said support mix is selected from the group consisting of a wet mix, a dough, a paste, and a slurry, and wherein said support particulate is selected from the group consisting of a granulate, an extrudate, a tablet, a sphere, a pellet, and a microsphere.

25. (Original) A process in accordance with claim 24 wherein said support particulate comprises a microsphere.

26. (Original) A process in accordance with claim 17 wherein said support mix is in the form of a slurry and said particulating comprises spray drying said slurry to form a microsphere.

27. (Original) A process in accordance with claim 26 wherein said microsphere has a mean particle size in the range of from about 1 micrometer to about 500 micrometers.

28. (Original) A process in accordance with claim 17 wherein said incorporating is selected from the group consisting of impregnating, soaking, spraying, and combinations thereof.

29. (Original) A process in accordance with claim 17 wherein said incorporating comprises incipient wetness impregnation.

30. (Original) A process in accordance with claim 17 wherein said reduced-valence noble metal has a valence of zero.

31. (Original) A process in accordance with claim 30 wherein said reduced-valence noble metal component comprises platinum.

32. (Original) A composition prepared by the process of claim 17.

33. (Original) A composition prepared by the process of claim 31.

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